

engines” in the cited portions of Civanlar et al. Rather, Civanlar et al. state in col. 3, lines 43-47, that “each forwarding engine 105 may be configured to forward new routing table configuration data received on one or more of the network interfaces 110 to every other intelligent router port 103 for updating each of the routing databases 104.” Thus, the teachings of the cited portions of Civanlar et al. fail to disclose the limitations set forth in the claims, such as claim 1.

As another example, Applicant notes that claim 3 includes “...generating...a corresponding forwarding table for each of the plurality of forwarding engines.” Applicant notes that the cited portions of Civanlar et al. appear to teach away from such a limitation.

As a further example, Applicant can find no specific assertion by the Examiner that Civanlar et al. teaches “a corresponding forwarding table for each grouping of the plurality of forwarding engines,” as set forth in claim 4, nor any disclosure of such in the cited portions of Civanlar et al. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

As yet another example, Applicant reiterates the arguments set forth above regarding claim 1 with regard to the features of the memory of the distributed network routing element set forth in claim 19. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

Thus, Applicant submits that Civanlar et al. fail to anticipate the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1-4, 7, 15, 18, 19, 23, 31, and 34. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 7, 15, 18, 19, 23, 31, and 34 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 6, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Civanlar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,963) in view of Armitage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,303). Applicant reiterates the arguments set forth above regarding the failure of Civanlar et al. to anticipate the claims from which claims 5, 6, 21, and 22 depend. Moreover, the supposed acknowledgement process of Armitage et al. (col. 3, lines 60-67) cited by the Examiner does not appear to teach verifying “receipt of the at least one specific forwarding table by the at least one corresponding forwarding engine,” as set forth in claims 6 and 22. Rather, the cited portion of Armitage et al. merely refers to acknowledging “an explicit teardown.” Thus, Applicant submits that claims 5, 6, 21, and 22 are also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16, 20, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Civanlar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,963) in view of Varghese et al. (U.S. Patent

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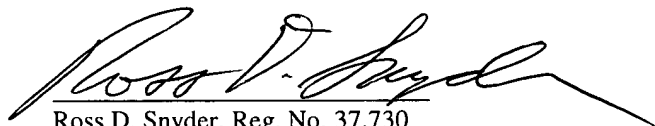
No. 5,905,723). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant has presented reasons above as to why Civanlar et al. fail to disclose the claimed invention as set forth in claims from which claims 16, 20, and 32 depend. Moreover, Applicant submits that Varghese et al. fail to disclose teachings sufficient to compensate for the shortcomings of Civanlar et al. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 16, 20, and 32 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has objected to claims 17 and 33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that, in view of Applicant's arguments for the allowability of base claims from which the objected claims depend, claims 17 and 33 are now in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, Applicant has overcome all of the Office's rejections, and early notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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